

access the water under his land, but we have been vague, and I don't know whether it was deliberate or otherwise, as to whether or not if I did not need the water that I can be compensated for it or that the state can be compensated for it. What we're trying to say is that if we adopt this provision that we are then in the position to say to a request for an out-of-state transfer, particularly, that we feel that the State of Nebraska will have need for that water in the future, that our plans include the development and utilization of the water as a resource for the state and that to transfer it now would be premature. I hope that, as I said earlier when I explained the issue when Senator Nelson asked the question, there isn't anything at the present time that would keep an out-of-state water user from coming into the state, laying claim to some of our water and then transferring it out for their own beneficial use. I do not think that is what Nebraskans want and I think this is a small step. It's a much smaller step, Senator Scofield, frankly, than I would have preferred to have taken, but when you're walking in hot water in the first place, I guess you take small steps. You might step rather fast and rather high, but you take them kind of small, and I think that we are engaged in an area here which is generally misunderstood by most of the people of the state. But once they understand it, and I've explained the issue in a number of instances where people have called me, they are not opposed, at least to this portion of the bill. They recognize that, as Senator Moore has pointed out and as Senator Hall has pointed out, that at the present time there is a great big gap in the statute and that if Nebraskans are going to protect our most valuable resource, though it be a renewable one, we're going to have to take some statutory steps. This is the first.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. On the \$50,000 figure and the time here, this is a pretty, as you've already admitted, controversial and difficult technical area and I guess I'm having some questions about whether \$50,000 is enough to do it and given our current status with the lawsuit on the Deer Creek project and what we know what it costs in this day and age to get quality expertise on some of these issues, I guess I'm questioning whether that is enough money to do it right and if, in fact, we shouldn't look at perhaps even allowing for, as I read the statute now, it would not allow for us to go outside the state for expertise if we need it.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Half a minute left, Senator Scofield.